



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services**

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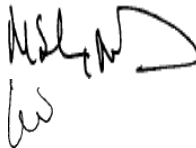

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Dempsey Benton, Secretary

Michael S. Lancaster, M.D. and
Leza Wainwright, Directors

May 5, 2008

To: Legislative Oversight Committee Members
Commission for MH/DD/SAS
Consumer/Family Advisory Committee Chairs
State Consumer Family Advisory Committee Chairs
Advocacy Organizations and Groups
North Carolina Association of County Commissioners
County Managers
County Board Chairs
North Carolina Council of Community Programs
NC Association of Directors of DSS

State Facility Directors
Area Program Directors
Area Program Board Chairs
DHHS Division Directors
Provider Organizations
MH/DD/SAS Professional Organizations and Groups
MH/DD/SAS Stakeholder Organizations and Groups
Other MH/DD/SAS Stakeholders

From: Michael S. Lancaster, M.D. 
Leza Wainwright 

Re: **Communication Bulletin #091 DMHDDSAS Policy**
Regarding Qualifications of Designated Non-
Licensed Substance Abuse Counseling
Professionals Eligible for Reimbursement Through
IPRS for State Funded Y-Code Services



The Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services has had ongoing discussions with substance abuse professionals across the state to inform state policy regarding the continued eligibility for reimbursement of designated non-licensed substance abuse counseling professionals for state funded substance abuse assessment and counseling services.

As you may recall, in September 2006, a State payment mechanism was developed to permit LMEs to bill a new set of Y-Codes that could be utilized by designated non-licensed substance abuse counseling professionals, for the provision of six (6) state-only reimbursed services. This policy was originally scheduled to be phased out on June 30, 2007, and was subsequently extended to June 30, 2008, due to continuing concerns regarding the sufficiency of the workforce of Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS) and Certified Clinical Supervisor (CCS) professionals that are recognized by the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board.

Effective July 1, 2008, the Division has adopted a reimbursement policy for state-only services as outlined in the attached two (2) documents. Attachment A outlines the approved billing codes and Attachment B outlines the required qualifications of the substance abuse professionals who are eligible to bill for services to state target population individuals using those codes. This policy applies only to IPRS substance abuse target populations receiving substance abuse services; it **does not apply** to Medicaid-funded services. LCAS or CCS professionals are required to continue to utilize the Medicaid and state-funded H-Codes. The same IPRS edits, audits and rates will be in place for these Y-Codes as are currently in use with the comparable H-Codes.



The designated non-licensed substance abuse counseling professionals who are covered under this policy are not included in the new "Incident To" policy for provisionally licensed professionals who are identified in the Department's Implementation Update # 43, dated May 5, 2008.

Questions in this matter may be directed to Spencer Clark at Spencer.Clark@ncmail.net or 919-733-4670 or Starleen Scott Robbins at Starleen.Scott-Robbins@ncmail.net or 919-715-2774.

Enclosures (2)

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